will be paid to the credit of this Fund every year, and it is expected that, in 1945, when the Railway Debenture Loan falls finally due, the State will have the wherewithal to pay up the entire liability, and the Quilon—Shencotta Railway will then become wholly State property unencumbered by any debt. Also, in view to the present satisfactory financial condition, His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Extension of the Railway to Trivandrum shall be constructed out of the funds of the Government. I need hardly say that there can be no better way of investing our surplus funds than in reproductive public works within the State.

4. **Departments of Revenue.**—Under Land Revenue, I would mention that the final report on the operations of the Settlement Department is now in the hands of His Highness' Government. Great credit is due to the Senior Dewan Peishkar, Mr. S. Padmanabha Aiyar, for having brought the Land Revenue Settlement to a satisfactory conclusion and for having prepared and submitted a comprehensive note on operations which have covered over a quarter of a century. The Forest Department continued to be managed efficiently by Mr. Rama Rao, and the Department of Salt, Excise and Customs by Mr. Raman Pillai. For fuller information in regard to the Revenue, I would refer you to Chapter III of the Report.

5. **Legislation.**—In the matter of Legislation, the year 1087 was a somewhat busy one, as you will see from a reference to page 27 of the Report. The Nair Bill was dealt with by the Council during the year. It became law after the close of the year. This Regulation meets, in the opinion of the Government, a much felt want, and as I have said elsewhere, I have every reason to think that it will be found a thoroughly workable measure and that it will conduce materially to improve the well-being of the Nair community.

I would draw the attention of the Christian Members to the fact that the Report of Mr. P. Cheriyan's Committee on the System of Inheritance and Succession among the Indian Christians was issued to the public in August last. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the opinion of the Christian Members of the Assembly shall be taken on the feasibility of the suggestions made by the Committee.

A vacancy has arisen in the Legislative Council by the resignation a few days ago, by Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, of his seat in the Council. The Assembly Members of the Quilon Division will now meet, under the presidency of the Chief Secretary to Government, and recommend a person for His Highness' consideration in filling up the vacancy.

6. **Police.**—The administration of the Police Department was, on the whole, satisfactory. I would however again point out that Police work cannot really improve till public opinion co-operates effectively. The evil of the frivolous prosecution of policemen continued unabated. No less than 100 policemen were prosecuted during the year, of whom only 11 were convicted ; 14 were under trial when the year closed ; the remaining 75 were either discharged or acquitted. A scheme for the reorganisation of the Police Department was elaborated during the year. Its final passing and introduction belong, however, to 1088.

7. **The Jail Department.**—The administration of the Central Prison was not, I am sorry to say, quite up to the mark. The increase in the percentage of sick to strength, from 3 to 7, the rise in the daily average of sick, from 15 to 31, and the increase in the number of deaths, from 16 to 24, have attracted the serious attention

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of the Government. An investigation into the causes of the recurring outbreaks of dysentery and diarrhoea, which account for the greater portion of the sickness in the Jail, is now being made by the Darbar Physician.

8. **Criminal Justice.**—Under Criminal Justice, I would note the larger number of juveniles now being sent to the Reformatory ; also, the unfortunate increase in the prosecution of public servants, which rose from 123 to 202 cases, the percentage of conviction falling from 6 to 2.

9. **Civil Justice.**—A readjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of the several Courts was made, and in doing so, full consideration was given by His Highness Government and by the High Court to the representations made on the subject at previous Assemblies. I need hardly say that, in a matter like this, it is impossible to please everybody, and I would ask the Assembly to seriously consider whether the time has not come when we may leave this question alone, at any rate, for a few years. The Law College was strengthened during the year in response to the recommendations of the Madras University Commission ; and a suitable building for housing the College is now under construction.

10. **Registration.**—The Registration Regulation was amended and re-enacted during the year ; also, revised Rules were passed under the new Regulation; and the table of fees was also revised. The number of documents registered rose substantially; the result of it all was that the receipts of the Department rose from Rs. 4,00,099 to Rs 4,97,899, and though the expenditure also rose, the ratio of expenditure to gross income fell from 35% to 31%. The reorganisation of the Department (involving a substantial increase in the expenditure of the Department) came into operation only towards the close of the year. It is pretty certain that, in 1088, the percentage of expenditure to the gross income will go up.

11. **Agriculture.**—The season was, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. The large increase in prices which has taken place throughout India during recent years, has also occurred in Travancore ; the wages of labour have also risen substantially ; Dr. Kunjan Pillai's Department continued to do good work, and His Highness' Government note with pleasure the increasing interest taken by the people in what, after all, would always continue to be the main industry of the country.

12. **Public Works.**—The total expenditure on Public Works—including Irrigation—reached the high figure of Rs. 27,66,222. The following figures showing the outlay on Public Works for a series of years, will, probably, be found instructive :—

1082	...	...	Rs. 18,29,253
1083	...	...	Rs. 20,16,641.
1084	...	...	Rs. 23,79,300.
1085	...	...	Rs. 28,15,950.
1086	...	...	Rs. 25,64,540.
1087	...	...	Rs. 27,66,222.

The needs of the country in the matter of communications and other works are being pressed upon the Government with increasing insistence year after year in the Assembly, and it is inevitable, therefore, that, with increasing financial prosperity, the outlay on Public Works should go up.

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